GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5799
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
TEXTILE WORKERS REHABILITATION SCHEME
DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enhance the coverage of Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme (TWRS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of textile workers likely to be benefitted from the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve other long pending demands of textile industry?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) & (b): Government had enhanced the coverage of TWRFS by enhancing the wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- per month to Rs. 3500/- per month with effect from 5th February, 2002 in respect of all workmen including permanent, badli or causal:

i. who have been employed in such a closed textile mill on the date of its closure; and
ii. have been in continuous service for five years or more, before the closure of the mill; and
iii. have been figuring in the records of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner; and
iv. have been earning wage equivalent upto Rs. 2500/- per month or less in respect of the eligible textile mills closed before 5.2.2002 or wage equivalent upto Rs. 3500/- per month or less in respect of eligible textile units which are closed on or after 5.2.2002; and
v. were not on illegal strike and the mill`s closure was not due to the fault on the part of the workmen.

Since the inception of the scheme up to 31.3.2003, 41 mills having 88809 workers on roll have been found eligible under the scheme and a total of 72118 workers have been disbursed a relief of Rs. 163.73 crore.

(c) Government has been receiving from time to time requests from textile industry for modernisation, relaxation in duties and taxes, development of infrastructure, dereservation of certain sectors, completion of CENVAT chain etc. Government has initiated/proposed various measures/schemes in order to fulfill these demands of textile industry which include:-

i) Introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.
ii) Completion of CENVAT chain in entire Textile Value Chain with simultaneous rationalization of excise duty on fibres, yarn, fabric/made-ups and readymade garments (RMG) in Union Budget 2003-04.
iii) Concessional rate of import duty of 5% on specified, textile machinery with state of art technology.
iv) Dereservation of woven readymade garment from SSI sector.
v) Development of apparel parks for production and export of garments.
vi) Launch of Cotton Technology Mission for boosting production and quality of cotton.
vii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in this sector with certain exceptions.
viii) Rationalisation of DEPB rates for certain textile products.
ix) A programme has also been launched to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernize 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
x) In budget proposals 2003-04, Finance Minister has announced that government is considering a mechanism for restructuring the debt portfolios of viable and potential viable textile units.